

Did CIA Try To Cover Up Oswald Contact?

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WASHINGTON — The secret files of the House Assassination Committee lie in reports of strange CIA activities in the corridors of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Cable witnesses have confirmed our past reports that the CIA was in touch with anti-Castro Cubans in Dallas.

"In 1963, Oswald was seen leaving the Dallas office of Alpha 66." This was a Cuban commando group trained by the CIA.

A Cuban CIA operative, Antonio Veciana, also told investigators that he had been in Dallas in 1963 — a year, 1963, by his CIA contact — a mysterious man who went by the name of Morris Bishop.

States a confidential summary: "When (Veciana) arrived, Bishop was accompanied by another man, Lee Harvey Oswald."

Another witness who impressed the investigators, Sylvia Odio, told them that two anti-Castro Cubans had intro-

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duced her to an American by the name of Leon Oswald.

She was told Oswald was trying "to convince anti-Castro Cuban groups . . . to kill President Kennedy." After the assassination, she recognized this American as a man who had been in Dallas in 1963.

The House investigators don't really believe the CIA had any part in the murder of President Kennedy. More likely, they suspect the CIA may have tried to cover up some embarrassing contacts with Oswald in Dallas.

In any case, the CIA took pains to

give the impression that Oswald was in Mexico City at the time witnesses reported seeing him. The CIA even guided Cubans in Dallas, Veciana, for example, told of a strange call he received from his CIA contact after Kennedy was killed.

The CIA man, Morris Bishop, asked Veciana to contact his cousin, Guillermo Ruiz, who worked for the Cuban embassy in Mexico City.

Relates a confidential report: "Veciana was to relay Bishop's offer to pay Ruiz and his wife to say that they had met with Oswald in Mexico City."

This not only would have placed Oswald out of Dallas but would have thrown suspicion on the Castro government.

The ruse was later called off. Instead, the CIA cited secret tapes and reports of Oswald's presence in Dallas had been in touch with the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City.

On Oct. 1, 1963, the CIA notified other U.S. embassies that "Lee Harvey Oswald, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City."

Oswald was described in the cable as "approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build, about six feet tall, with a receding hairline." The committee files note that this "in no way physically resembles the Lee Harvey Oswald" of assassinating President Kennedy.